

City of Bend Noise Variance Frequently Asked Questions

Question: How do I apply for a variance?

Answer: Visit bendoregon.gov, then click on “I Want To” on the top banner, then under “Apply For” select “Noise Variance” or use www.bendoregon.gov/noise.

When you submit your form electronically, it will be sent to City of Bend staff for processing. Staff will provide you with a sample notice and mailing list. Final approval will not be granted until the notice provision has been satisfied and a processing payment of \$50 has been received.

Question: I’m having a band play at a party in my backyard. Do I need a noise permit?

Answer: If you expect to exceed already permitted limits you may want to get a permit. If you don’t get a permit, be aware of the decibel limit and be sure to turn off amplification by 10 p.m.

Question: My business has live music each Friday night. Can I apply for multiple events with one application?

Answer: Yes, you can request a permit for a series of events. Specific dates must be identified in the notice.

Question: Why do applications need to be submitted 45 days in advance?

Answer: The process was designed to allow time to notify the surrounding neighbors and provide time for comment and review. This also allows time for an appeal to the City Council if someone disagrees with the City Manager’s decision to issue or deny a variance. The City Manager has authority to waive a portion of the notice period.

Question: When a complaint is received, where is the sound measurement taken?

Answer: The decibel measurement is taken at the property line of the person reporting the concern.

Decibel Limits

Zone Location	Daytime (7am – 10pm)	Nighttime (10pm – 7am)
Residential	65 dBA	60 dBA
Commercial	70 dBA	65 dBA
Industrial	75 dBA	70 dBA

Have more questions? Give us a call at 541-323-8565.